(c) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Zoo is turning into wilderness due to poor maintenance and inadequate staff; and

(d) if so, what are the appropriate measures Government propose to take to make the zoo's environment friendly.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It is not correct to say that Delhi Zoo suffers from filth and neglect as reported in the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 19th July, 1997. Every effort is being made to keep the zoo neat and clean and provide ideal conditions for the zoo animals as well as the visitors. However, certain problems are being experienced due to poor drainage system and also due to low topography. A comprehensive plan has already been drawn to improve the drainage system in association with the Government of Delhi.

(c) No Sir, despite the basic limitations as mentioned above and funds constraint, Delhi Zoo is still considered a reasonably good zoo because of its wide enclosures and open green areas. There is some shortage of staff, but the work is being attended by engaging daily rated workers. Action has already been initiated to fill up the vacant posts.

(d) The Central Zoo Authority constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended in 1992) for overseeing the functioning of the various zoos all over the country, has laid down rules and regulations for the better functioning of the zoos including making the zoo environment friendly. The following measures have been taken to make the zoo environment friendly:—

(i) A great deal of the area of the zoo has been covered with trees and shrubs. Even the area which was being used for dumping garbage has been planted. The greenery thus created would not merely enhance the asthetic value but also support a great deal of Wildlife including the birds.

(ii) Environment friendly measures such as installation of bio-gas plant, incinerator, commissioning of battery operated trollies for visitors etc. have been undertaken.

(iii) Dustbins have been provided for proper collection of the garbage.

(iv) New elephant shelter, stand off bariers, feeding cells have been constructed in a number of enclosures.

(v) Welded mesh has been fixed above the perimeter wall along the residential colony to prevent scaling of the wall.

National Environmental Tribunal Act

1904. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not yet framed the rules required for the National Environmental Tribunal Act which got the presidential assent two years back;

(b) if so, what is the reasons for such a long delay; and

(c) what is the action taken by his Ministry with regard to the observations made by the Standing Committee in its report submitted recently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft National Environment Tribunal Rules have been framed by the Ministry and would be notified after they are vetted by the Ministry of Law & Justice. The process for appointment of a Chairperson of the National Environment Tribunal has also been initiated by the Ministry. Approval of Ministry of Finance has been sought

for creation of the necessary posts. Action has thus been taken in respect of the observations of the Standing Committee.

Pending Projects for Forest Clearance

1905. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects from different States pending with his Ministry for forest clearance as on date;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of those projects and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) As on 30.6.97, 133 proposals are pending with Central Government for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State-wise details are enclosed as Statement. (Column 7).

(c) Expeditious action is being taken to decide these cases. Many cases have been received recently in the wake of the recent Supreme Court directions and these are already under different stages of processing including site inspection by the regional offices of this Ministry.

Statement

Position of proposals received from the State/UTs under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as on 30-6-1997

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total Received	Total Approved (Stage-II)	Total Approved in Principle (Stage-I)	Total Rejected on Merit	Pending with Central Govt.	With-drawn	Pending with State Govt. for want of Information
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	233	122	44	32	03	08	24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85	35	13	11	01	—	25
3.	Assam	123	90	08	08	—	01	16
4.	Bihar	148	72	15	09	06	01	45
5.	Goa	68	36	16	11	—	—	05
6.	Gujarat	532	217	52	147	04	19	93
7.	Haryana	146	95	—	20	01	—	30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	340	183	14	53	09	03	78
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	08	—	—	—	—	02
10.	Karnataka	448	181	25	91	05	07	139
11.	Kerala	166	93	04	25	02	04	38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	992	494	88	156	26	29	199
13.	Maharashtra	950	606	118	96	13	13	104
14.	Manipur	14	04	01	03	—	—	06
15.	Meghalaya	34	23	—	07	—	—	04
16.	Mizoram	11	02	02	01	—	—	06
17.	Nagaland	02	—	—	—	—	—	02
18.	Orissa	245	118	43	25	03	04	52
19.	Punjab	174	87	—	21	08	05	53
20.	Rajasthan	412	98	25	23	31	05	230